

Fall 2016 Course Syllabus

## **Jewish Identities in the Americas**

LAH 350 (29880)

JS 363 (40045)

Course carries a Global Cultures Flag and a Cultural Diversity Flag

Meets: Meets T Th 9:30 @ MEZ 1.204

Instructors

**Robert H. Abzug, Professor of History and American Studies** (U.S. and Canada)

Office Hours: TTH 11-12 GAR 3.310 and by appointment [zug@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:zug@austin.utexas.edu)

**Naomi Lindstrom, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese** (Latin America/Latino Jews in U.S.)

Office Hours: T 2:30-4:00 in BEN 4.144, Th 2:30-4:00 in CLA 2.402 or by appointment

[lindstrom@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lindstrom@austin.utexas.edu)

Grading Criteria:

Reports in Class: 15%

Midterm Exam: 25% October 4

Paper Proposal: 15% Due October 18

Final Paper: 35% Due December 5

Attendance, Class Participation: 10%

(Faithful attendance expected except in case of unavoidable circumstances)

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Required Texts: Readings posted in Canvas

Please consult Canvas for readings and prepare them in advance of class:

August	25	Introduction to Course
	30	Jews, Judaism, Jewish Life and Traditions
September	01	Jews, Judaism, Jewish Life and Traditions
	06	Introduction to Latin America
	08	Introduction to the Americas-North
	13	Summary, Questions, and Discussions
	15	Literature-Latin America
	20	Literature-Latin America
	22	Literature-North America
	27	Literature-North America
	29	Review
October	04	Exam

- 06 Music and Visual Arts RHA
  - 11 Music and Visual Arts RHA
  - 13 Music and Visual Arts NL
  - 18 Due date, proposal for final paper; students present their topics; more on final paper
  - 20 Film RHA
  - 25 Film RHA / NL
  - 27 Film NL
- November
- 01 Antisemitism, Acculturation, and Marginality
  - 03 Antisemitism, Acculturation, and Marginality
  - 08 Antisemitism, Acculturation, and Marginality
  - 10 Zionism, Israel, and the American Diaspora
  - 15 Presentations
  - 17 Presentations
  - 22 Discussion of Final Paper
  - 24 Thanksgiving
  - 29 Presentations
- December
- 01 Presentations

December 05 Final Term Paper Due

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade in the course:

93-100 = A	83-86.99 = B	73-76.99 = C	63-66.99 = D
90-92.99 = A-	80-82.99 = B-	70-72.99 = C-	60-62.99 = D-
87-89.99 = B+	77-79.99 = C+	67-69.99 = D+	0-59.99 = F

Though they will not be graded for grammar, examinations, quizzes, and papers must be written clearly enough to be understood. The final paper must be at least 2000 words (approx. 8-9 pages) in length, not counting the bibliography, and must cover a topic and readings that are not already covered in class sessions (see syllabus of readings, below). The paper must have to do with some aspect of Jewish culture in Latin America, the U.S., or Canada. It may (but not necessarily) be comparative in nature and cover more than one region. The paper topic must be cultural in nature, and not oriented toward technical or business subjects. For example, “A Novel of Jewish Life in Caracas” would be fine, but not “Jewish Leaders in the Petroleum Industry in Venezuela.” You may write about literature, music, film, the visual arts, architecture, or any other form of cultural expression, including religion.

Professor Abzug must approve topics having to do with the U.S. or Canada, while Latin American topics (including Latino Jews in the U.S.) must be approved by Professor Lindstrom. If you would like to pursue a comparative topic on both North America and Latin America, please consult with both instructors.

**Global Cultures, Cultural Diversity, Accommodations, Religious Holidays, Emergencies, Scholastic Dishonesty**

- This course carries a Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.
- This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.
- Please note that all graded work done inside or outside of class must be your own work. Writing that appears to be the work of someone else (*e.g.* a friend, a Web or print source) and may entail severe penalties beyond just a zero on the particular assignment. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university. For more information, visit <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>. **We strictly abide by the UT Honor Code < <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>> on questions of scholastic dishonesty.**
- **Please familiarize yourself with the policies concerning campus carry:**  
<https://campuscarry.utexas.edu/students>
- **Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259 <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.**
- **Students seeking assistance with writing may wish to contact The Undergraduate Writing Center <http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts>.**
- **Medical assistance/ counseling services are available at <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/>.**
- If you miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.
- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>